

Application No. 09/344,826
Amendment dated August 7, 2006
Reply to office action dated April 5, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A method for halftoning an input image comprised of a plurality of pixels, the method comprising the steps of:

determining one of at least two halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image;

halftoning the input image by applying the one of at least two halftone techniques to the plurality of pixels in the input image, wherein each halftone technique has at least one halftone parameter that differs from the halftone parameters in the other halftone techniques; and

repeating the step of halftoning the input image by applying one of the at least two halftone techniques to the plurality of pixels in the input image, wherein the one of at least two halftone techniques changes from the previously used halftone technique every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of successively outputting the halftoned input images.

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Claims 4-6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the step of halftoning the input image by applying one of at least two halftone techniques comprises the step of halftoning the input image by applying at least one transformed halftone technique to the plurality of pixels in the input image.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the at least two halftone techniques are comprised of the same halftone method having at least one differing halftone parameter.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the at least two halftone techniques are comprised of different halftone methods.

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Claim 10 (Currently amended): An apparatus for halftoning an input image comprised of a plurality of pixels, the apparatus comprising:

means for determining one of at least two halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image;

means for halftoning the input image by applying the one of at least two halftone techniques to the plurality of pixels in the input image, wherein each halftone technique has at least one halftone parameter that differs from the halftone parameters in the other halftone techniques; and

means for repeatedly halftoning the input image by applying one of the at least two halftone techniques to the plurality of pixels in the input image, wherein the one of at least two halftone techniques changes from the previously used halftone technique every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claims 12-14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the means for halftoning the input image by applying one of at least two halftone techniques comprises means for halftoning the input image by applying at least one transformed halftone technique to the plurality of pixels in the input image.

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Claim 16 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least two halftone techniques are comprised of the same halftone method having at least one differing halftone parameter.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least two halftone techniques are comprised of different halftone methods.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for halftoning an input image comprised of a plurality of pixels by performing the steps of:

determining one of at least two halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image;

halftoning the input image by applying the one of at least two halftone techniques to the plurality of pixels in the input image, wherein each halftone technique has at least one halftone parameter that differs from the halftone parameters in the other halftone techniques; and

repeating the step of halftoning the input image by applying one of the at least two halftone techniques to the plurality of pixels in the input image, wherein the one of at least two halftone techniques changes from the previously used halftone technique every time the input image is halftoned.

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Claim 19 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claims 20-22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the step of halftoning the input image by applying one of at least two halftone techniques comprises the step of halftoning the input image by applying at least one transformed halftone technique to the plurality of pixels in the input image.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the at least two halftone techniques are comprised of the same halftone method having at least one differing halftone parameter.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the at least two halftone techniques are comprised of different halftone methods.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

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Claim 27 (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a halftone technique.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of offsetting the starting location from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the step of halftoning the input image by applying one of at least two halftone techniques comprises the step of halftoning the input image by tiling the one of at least two halftone techniques over the plurality of pixels in the input image.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the at least two halftone techniques are comprised of spatial halftone techniques.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

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Claim 33 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a halftone technique.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising means for offsetting the starting location from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the means for halftoning the input image by applying one of at least two halftone techniques comprises means for halftoning the input image by tiling the one of at least two halftone techniques over the plurality of pixels in the input image.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least two halftone techniques are comprised of spatial halftone techniques.

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Claim 38 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

Claim 39 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a halftone technique.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 39, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of offsetting the starting location from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the step of halftoning the input image by applying one of at least two halftone techniques comprises the step of halftoning the input image by tiling the one of at least two halftone techniques over the plurality of pixels in the input image.

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Claim 43 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the at least two halftone techniques are comprised of spatial halftone techniques.

Claim 44 (Withdrawn): A method for halftoning an input image comprising the steps of:

determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a halftoning technique;

halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image beginning at the starting location; and

repeating the steps of determining a starting location within the input image and halftoning the input image, wherein the starting location is offset from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 45 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 45, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

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Claim 47 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

Claim 48 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of reading the one of at least one halftone techniques from a memory prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of determining the one of at least one halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, wherein the step of halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image comprises the step of halftoning the input image by tiling at least one transformed halftone technique over the input image.

Claim 51 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 44, wherein the one of at least one halftone techniques is comprised of a spatial halftone technique.

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Claim 52 (Withdrawn): An apparatus for halftoning an input image comprising:

means for determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a halftoning technique;

means for halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image beginning at the starting location; and

means for repeatedly determining a starting location within the input image and halftoning the input image, wherein the starting location is offset from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising means for successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claim 54 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

Claim 55 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

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Claim 56 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising means for reading the one of at least one halftone techniques from a memory prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 57 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising means for determining the one of at least one halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 58 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the means for halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image comprises means for halftoning the input image by tiling at least one transformed halftone technique over the input image.

Claim 59 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the one of at least one halftone techniques is comprised of a spatial halftone technique.

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Claim 60 (Withdrawn): A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for halftoning an input image by performing the steps of:

determining a starting location within the input image for initiating a halftoning technique;

halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image beginning at the starting location; and

repeating the steps of determining a starting location within the input image and halftoning the input image, wherein the starting location is offset from the previously used starting location after a certain number of input images have been halftoned.

Claim 61 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, further comprising program instructions for performing the step of successively outputting the halftoned input images.

Claim 62 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 61, wherein the halftoned input images are successively output so that each halftoned input image comprises a frame of an output image.

Claim 63 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the starting location within the input image is offset from the previously used starting location every time the input image is halftoned.

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Claim 64 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, further comprising program instructions for reading the one of at least one halftone techniques from a memory prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 65 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, further comprising program instructions for determining the one of at least one halftone techniques in real time prior to halftoning the input image.

Claim 66 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the step of halftoning the input image by tiling one of at least one halftone techniques over the input image comprises the step of halftoning the input image by tiling at least one transformed halftone technique over the input image.

Claim 67 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the one of at least one halftone techniques is comprised of a spatial halftone technique.